

In Focus...

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Washington Observations

★ CIA Director Adm. Stansfield Turner, USN (Ret.), continues to present net assessments of US vs. Soviet military capabilities to Congress and the executive branch, rather than confining his reports to the intelligence community's findings on Soviet activities and capabilities. Net assessments are the function of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and OSD, as well as the National Security Council, and should be based on those agencies' expertise in establishing US strengths and weaknesses and relating them to the intelligence community's analyses and findings concerning Soviet capabilities. Yet, in spite of repeated admonitions by members of congressional oversight committees, Admiral Turner insists on exceeding the intelligence community's mandate. There are further misgivings about the intelligence chief's peculiar style of reporting, according to highly placed congressional intelligence experts. The CIA Director's reports are said to be so arcane in terms of weighting the confidence factor of the information presented and so voluminous and abstruse as to become unintelligible even to other intelligence experts.

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